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Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00 IO-03 SP-02

INR-05 CIAE-00 L-01 DODE-00 PRS-01 H-01 EUR-08 ACDA-10

PM-03 EB-03 /066 W
---------- 033596
R 260545Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1422
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 14513

LIMDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS ID UR
SUBJ: SOVIETS ON STRAITS AND ARCHIPELAGOES

REF: A) JAKARTA 14013 (NOTAL)
B) KUALA LUMPUR 6811 (NOTAL)
C) JAKARTA 0754 (NOTAL)
D) JAKARTA 2614 (NOTAL)
E) JAKARTA 2793 (NOTAL)

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH US OFFICIALS INDONESIAN
JUSTICE MINISTER AND LOS SENIOR NEGOTIATOR MOCHTAR (REF A)
AND MALAYSIAN MFA PERMANENT ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR LOS
AFFAIRS PARAMESWARAN (REF B) STATED USSR "MORE FLEXIBLE" THAN
US ON QUESTIONS OF ARCHIPELAGO AND STRIATS.
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2. IN REVIEWING MATTER, INCLUDING DISCUSSIONS WITH AUTHORI-
TATIVE INDONESIAN LOS OFFICIALS (MOCHTAR AND AIR MARSHAL
SOEDARMONO) WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO DETERMINE FACTS, AT LEAST
AS THEY APPEAR FROM JAKARTA.

3. IN APRIL 1973 SOVIET AMBASSADOR KUZNETSOV WAS PUBLICLY
QUOTED AS STATING, " USSR WAS FIRST COUNTRY THAT SUPPORTED
DECISION OF GOI ON 12MILE TERRITORIAL SEA NAD ARCHIPELAGIC
PRINCIPLE." STATEMENT WAS GENERALLY ACCEPTED AS "IN PRINCIPLE"
ONLY.

4. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH INDONESIAN IN PERIOD FOLLOWING LAST
US-INDONESIAN BILATERAL (DEC 1974), QUESTION OF SOVIET
POSITION HAS ARISEN ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. ON JANUARY 17, 1975,
IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION RE INDONESIAN-SOVIET CONSULTATIONS,
SOEDARMONO SAID INDONESIA GENERALLY ASSUMES US REPRESENTS
ALL MAJOR MARITIME POWERS AND KEEPS IN TOUCH WITH THEM (REF C).
ON MARCH 3, MOCHTAR SAID RUSSIANS WERE MORE FLEXIBLE THAN WE,
ALTHOUGH THEY TOO INSISTED IN TYING ARCHIPELAGO IN WITH FREE
PASSAGE THROUGH STRAITS (REF D). ON MARCH 5, SOEDARMONO
COMMENTED THAT FOR VARIOUS UNDERSTANDABLE REASONS, INCLUDING
GEOGRAPHIC, AGREEMENT WITH USSR SEEMED EASIER THAN WITH US,
ADMITTING THAT SOVIETS WERE "INSISTENT" ON FREE PASSAGE
THROUGH STRAITS (REF E).

5. IN SHORT, IT APPEARS THAT, SINCE US HAS UNDERTAKEN TO
NEGOTIATE WITH INDONESIA QUESTIONS OF ARCHIPELAGIC AND
STRAITS PASSAGE IN RETURN FOR RECOGNITION OF ARCHIPELAGO
PRINICPLE BY MARITIME POWERS, USSR CAN TAKE POLITICALLY
ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION OF RECOGNIZING ARCHIPELAGO PRINCIPLE
"IN PRINCIPLE" AND APPEARING FLEXIBLE THROUGHOUT, WITHOUT
RISK TO THEIR BASIC INTERESTS, KNOWLEDGEABLE INDONESIANS
RECOGNIZE THIS BUT OCCASIONALLY EMPLOY TACTICAL MANEUVER OF
COMPARING USSR "FLEXIBILITY" WITH US "RIGIDITY." ONLY
INDICATION WE HAVE THAT, IN ONE REPECT, SOVIET POSITION MAY
IN FACT BE MORE FLEXIBLE THAN OURS COMES FROM OCCASIONAL
COMMENT BY INDONESIANS THAT SOVIETS WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH
SEALANES MUCH NARROWER THAN WE REQUIRE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS WHICH
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DEPARTMENT OF INFO ADDRESSES WISH TO MAKE ON OUR
ASSESSMENT OF SOVIET POSITION.
NEWSOM

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